

THE CLAIMS

1. (previously amended) Packaging material for forming a flexible package ~~having a reclosable interlocking seal~~, comprising in combination,

- a) a continuous web of substantially constant thickness packaging material, said web having width and selectable running length, said width defining the side edges of said web, and
- b) a discrete strip of substantially constant thickness flexible material, said strip having length and width, said strip width defining the strip ends, said strip length having top and bottom edges and being substantially greater than said strip width, said strip length being secured transversely to the running length of said web of packaging material along the strip top edge and being substantially unsecured along its bottom edge.

2. (previously amended) Packaging material for forming a flexible package ~~having a reclosable interlocking seal~~ as set forth in claim 1, wherein one end of said strip is substantially congruent with one of said side edges of said web.

3. (previously amended) Packaging material for forming a flexible package ~~having a reclosable interlocking seal~~ as set forth in claim 1, wherein one end of said strip is substantially congruent with one side edge of said web, and the other side edge of said web is disposed at a distance beyond the other end of said strip sufficient to provide a margin of web material for the formation of an overlap package seal.

4. (previously amended) Packaging material for forming a flexible package ~~having a reclosable interlocking seal~~ as set forth in claim 1, wherein both side edges of said web are disposed at a distance beyond the ends of said strip sufficient to provide side margins of web material for the formation of a package fin seal.

5. (previously amended) Packaging material for forming a flexible package ~~having a reclosable interlocking seal~~ as set forth in claim 1 wherein said strip is secured to said packaging material substantially continuously along its top edge.

6. (previously amended) Packaging material for forming a flexible package ~~having a reclosable interlocking seal~~ as set forth in claim 1 wherein said strip is secured to said packaging material substantially continuously along its top edge and opposite ends.

7. (previously amended) Packaging material for forming a flexible package ~~having a reclosable interlocking seal~~ as set forth in claim 1 wherein said strip is secured to said packaging material for a short length substantially centrally along its bottom edge.

8. (previously amended) Packaging material for forming a flexible package ~~having a reclosable interlocking seal~~ as set forth in claim 1 wherein said packaging material and said strip are both single thickness mono-layer materials.

9. (previously amended) Packaging material for forming a flexible package ~~having a reclosable interlocking seal~~ as set forth in claim 1 wherein said packaging material is a single thickness multi-layer material.

10. (previously amended) Packaging material for forming a flexible package ~~having a reclosable interlocking seal~~ as set forth in claim 1 wherein said strip is a single thickness multi-layer material.

11. (previously amended) Packaging material for forming a flexible package ~~having a reclosable interlocking seal~~ as set forth in claim 1 wherein said packaging material and said strip are both single thickness multi-layer materials.

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12. (previously added) Packaging material for forming a flexible package as set forth in claim 1 wherein said strip is secured to said packaging material for a length along its bottom edge.